(d) The first block of Flight Test phase has been successfully completed on the first technology demonstrator LCA (TD1). Analyses of the flight test results have indicated a reasonably good match between recorded flight data and performance estimates. The aircraft is being prepared for second block of flight test. The second technology demonstrator—LCA (TD2) is undergoing taxi trials before its maiden flight. Final phase of guided trials for Akash are planned by December 2003 and Trishul by June, 2003.

(e) LCA is likely to be ready for induction into Air Force Service by the year 2005. Akash and Trishul missiles are in advanced stage of evaluation through a series of flight trials and will be inducted into the services during 2003-2004.

Technology Experiment Satellite to monitor troops movement of neighbouring country

5120. SHRI K. KALAVENKATA RAO: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India has put to use Technology Experiment Satellite to monitor troops movement of a neighbouring country;

(b) if so, when this was started; and

(c) the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Non-supply of SLR to BSF by COD, Jabalpur

5121. SHRI RUMANDLA RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a Comptroller and Auditor General report prepared in 2001 pointed out that the Central Ordnance Depot, Jabalpur did not supply self-loading rifles worth Rs. 12.71 crore to the Border Security Force despite advance payment made in September, 1993;

(b) if so, the inspection team found that 6 percent of the SLRs were of an old brand, reconditioned and not acceptable;

(c) whether despite the team's adverse observations, the sanctioned amount was drawn in full and paid as advance to the Jabalpur COD in September, 1993; and

(d) what action has been taken by the Union Government against those held responsible?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir. The Self Loading Rifles which were to be issued to Border Security Force had been withdrawn from service by the Army on induction of rifles 5.56mm INSAS and were serviceable, though in used condition. These rifles were rejected by the representatives of the Border Security Force on the grounds that the weapons though serviceable, were in used condition. As no new serviceable rifles were available for issue, the Border Security Force were offered ammunition against the amount of advance given by the BSF. This was agreed to by the Border Security Force.

(c) Yes, Sir. The amount was drawn by Directorate General of Border Security Force and paid as advance to the Central Ordnance Depot, Jabalpur.

(d) In view of the replies given at (b) and (e) above, no one from Central Ordnance Depot, Jabalpur can be held responsible in this regard.

Russian warships patrolling Indian Ocean

5122. SHRI RUMANDLA RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Russian warships have started patrolling the Indian Ocean for the first time in almost a decade;

(b) if so, whether two destroyers and a tanker from Russia's Pacific Fleet, based in Vladivostok called Mumbai in mid-February as part of two-and-a-half months training Voyage that will also take